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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salt Creek Ballet Presents a Time-Honored Holiday Tradition The Nutcracker December 7 at GSU's Center for Performing Arts

November 22, 2019, (University Park, IL) – The highly acclaimed Salt Creek Ballet once again brings its lovable holiday classic *The Nutcracker* to GSU's Center for Performing Arts (CPA). This year, the production will feature internationally-recognized guest dancers Emily Bowen as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Ilya Kozadayev as Cavalier. *The Nutcracker* waltzes into Governors State University on Saturday, December 7 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Families will enjoy a 'Sugar Plum Party' between the performances at 3 p.m. where they can take pictures with Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, and play holiday-themed games.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* has called Salt Creek Ballet's production "...a solid, professional *Nutcracker*," and the *Chicago Tribune* calls it "a plum performance." This enchanting holiday tradition features gorgeous sets and costumes and a cast of 100 dancers, including local children and young adults ages 8-17.

Guest soloist **Emily Bowen** trained at Cumberland Dance Company in PA, the School of North Caroline Dance Theater (now Charlotte Ballet), and Houston Ballet Academy where she competed in the prestigious Prix De Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland. During her 10 year career with the Houston Ballet, she was featured in many works by renowned choreographers. Guest soloist **Ilya Kozadayev** is an international award-winning dancer and choreographer. Born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, to a family of ballet dancers. He received his dance training from the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Saint Petersburg, Russia, The School of American Ballet in New York City, Academy of Colorado Ballet and graduated from the John Cranko Ballet Academy in Stuttgart, Germany. Mr. Kozadayev has danced with numerous prestigious ballet companies in the United States including Boston Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, as a soloist with Colorado Ballet, a principal dancer with Columbia Classical Ballet and a soloist with the Houston Ballet from 2003-13.

The performance is supported by First Midwest Bank.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$40/\$45 for adults; and \$20 for children (14 and under).

Online: CenterTickets.net

By Phone: 708.235.2222

In Person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

Box Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (open until 6p.m. on Thursdays) and two hours prior to all performances.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484. Conveniently located off of I-57 (Sauk Trail exit), the Center for Performing Arts is easily accessible from all neighboring

south suburban communities. Parking is free. For best GPS directions always use the location search term "Governors State University" only.

About Center for Performing Arts

The Center for Performing Arts (CPA) serves over 50,000 patrons annually, offering diverse, high-quality, and affordable cultural and arts education experiences. CPA presents concerts, dance, theatre, opera, and family programs from national touring acts, Chicago-based artists, and community and academic theatre as part of the Governors State University Theatre and Performance Studies program.

About Salt Creek Ballet

Salt Creek Ballet dancers are pre-professionals drawn from the best Chicago-area talent. Internationally-known guest artists, choreographers, and designers regularly work with SCB to provide dancers and audiences alike with a level of performance usually associated with top professional companies. Repertory includes traditional classical works plus original classical and contemporary works by both resident and guest choreographers. The School of Salt Creek Ballet offers students unmatched excellence at all ability, interest, and age levels, from pre-ballet classes through the Vaganova Curriculum of dance education, to teen/adult classes.

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Governors State University serves 5,200 undergraduate and graduate students with degree programs that prepare them for success in business, industry, healthcare, the arts, and education. As a state university, GSU is committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and responsible higher education opportunities. GSU is located 35 miles south of Chicago in University Park, IL and committed to embracing diversity and academic excellence while transforming student passion into lifelong purpose.